

THE TOWN NEWSLETTER

Invitation to an Art Exhibition



Please join us for the opening reception of  
"FACETS OF PERCEPTION"

Date: Saturday, June 16, 2007

Time: 2 - 4 pm

Location: Los Altos Hills Town Hall,

26379 Fremont Road, LAH

Light Refreshments

Artists Beyond Obvious (ABO), a group of 18 local painters, present Facets of Perception - 18 Artists Interpret the Pomegranate.

The exhibition is unified by the requirement that every painting include a pomegranate as visually interpreted by the artists in their own style from abstraction to whimsical realist. A fruit with a 5,000 year old, multi-cultural history, the pomegranate figures prominently in art, architecture, literature and legend. ABO meets weekly to practice the craft of artistic, critical analysis. In 2006 they exhibited jointly in the Main Street Café and Books in Los Altos; and individually their work can be seen in regional and national exhibits as well as in local galleries. Email: beyond@practic.com



KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOR

DIANA FONG CHAN

(Editor's note: Los Altos Hills is not only the home of the captains of industry, but also the home of great cuisine and gourmet cooks. We are happy to share the outstanding accomplishments of one of our LAH residents.)

"My new cookbook *"Easy'n Healthy Cooking"* is the celebration of a dream come true through sheer determination and perseverance of the little persons," states *Diana Chan*.

Diana is a long-time Los Altos Hills resident, where she and her husband Steve raised their two children. They are now empty nesters as their daughter, with a doctorate in physical therapy, works in New York City, while their son is and attorney in Manhattan. A recent addition is the Chan's first granddaughter, Josephine. The Chan's are visiting their beautiful granddaughter in May.

Diana was born in Shanghai, lived in Hong Kong and Brazil where she enjoyed observing her family's chef. She is a self-taught gourmet chef who has just published her first cookbook with over 150 recipes in Chinese, Fusion and Western style cuisine. It all started with her son and daughter-in-law asking for a few recipes for beginners. Somewhere during the 3-year period, she realized she had enough 30-minute recipes and gourmet recipes appealing to novice and experienced cooks from a cookbook.

She did most of the photography and all the illustrations, and emphasizes healthy cooking using lean meats, abundant vegetables and very little oil. Diana found a talented professional graphic designer to do the cover and layout of the cookbook; the book is printed in China through Overseas Printing, Inc.

Chef Lawrence Chu wrote the forward; he and Martin Yan both are acknowledged for their suggestions and contributions.

Former LAH Mayor, Emily Cheng states, "Diana is a wonderful chef and we are so lucky to have her as a friend and neighbor and to enjoy her gourmet cuisine."

Book signings will be at the Main Street Café, 134 Main Street, Los Altos on May 10th from 11-11:30 AM. See website: [www.easyandhealthycooking.com](http://www.easyandhealthycooking.com)



Parks & Recreation Program

New Supervisor Appointed

Eric Christensen was recently appointed as Supervisor of the Parks & Recreation Department. Eric assumed his new position on April 5, 2007. It doesn't hurt that our new Parks & Recreation Supervisor is also a great sports fan - loves those 49ers and the Giants! After growing up in Grass Valley, Eric attended Menlo College in Atherton. During college he worked part-time for the City of Palo Alto's Recreation Division where he found that he really enjoyed working with kids and the out of doors.

Following graduation in 1997 from Menlo College with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Eric assumed a full time position in the City of Palo Alto's Recreation Division. "What better combination could you have for a career - than to be doing something in an atmosphere that you enjoy," states Eric.

Eric's relevant experience working on the need to identify more field space in Palo Alto and the development process for the new Mayfield Soccer Fields in Palo Alto contributed to his being selected for the LAH position. Valerie Metcalfe, Co-Chairman Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee, states, "We are delighted to welcome Eric as the new Parks & Recreation Supervisor. He brings a wealth of valuable experience, including several years with the City of Palo Alto, and seems ideal to develop and grow the Parks & Recreation programs offered to the Los Altos Hills community." The results of the recent Parks & Recreation Survey and the formation of a new Ad Hoc Facilities Committee to assess the results of the survey will be a big part of Eric's new role. The planning for future field space in LAH is a top priority with the city council and the Parks & Recreation Department. Rebecca Hickman, Member of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee states, "In the few weeks he has been with us, Eric has already proposed exciting ideas for expanding current programs as well as adding new ones to Parks and Recreation. His strong professional experience in recreation facilities development will be a great asset to the new Ad Hoc Facilities Committee as they work to address the community's survey results for new recreation facilities." Welcome aboard Eric - we wish you good luck in your new position.



Eric Christensen, Supervisor  
Parks & Recreation Program

Moth Quarantine



(Photo courtesy of SARDI, Greg Baker)

The California Department of Food and Agriculture has designated a quarantine boundary area for Santa Clara County including that portion of Los Altos Hills east of I-280. Plants including flowers, fruits and vegetables, cannot not be moved out of the quarantine areas. This quarantine is in effect in order to prevent the spread of the Light Brown Apple Moth. For a detailed map and more information on the quarantine please refer to the following website: [http://www.cdffa.ca.gov/phpps/pdep/lbam\\_main.htm](http://www.cdffa.ca.gov/phpps/pdep/lbam_main.htm)

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THE TOWN NEWSLETTER

Los Altos Hills

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CALENDAR

June 1, Friday; Los Altos Chamber of Commerce; Event is "Perspective-State of the Cities Los Altos and Los Altos Hills; 11:30 check-in; Cost \$25.00 per person (registration is available online at [www.losaltoschamber.org](http://www.losaltoschamber.org))

June 3, Sunday; 1-4 PM; LAH Town Picnic; Little League Fields Pre-register: 650/941-7222

June 10; Sunday; 10 AM - 4 PM; Los Altos country Antique Americana Show; History House, Los Altos

July 4th Wednesday; Independence Day Celebration; 11AM-2PM; Shoup Park, Los Altos

July 14, Saturday; Los Altos Rotary Arts & Wine Festival; 10 AM - 6 PM, Lincoln Park, Los Altos

July 15 & 22 ; August 5 & 19; 6-8 PM; Free Summer Concert Series at Hidden Villa; Info. (650) 949-9704



New Recreation Facility Survey

Thanks to the 965 of you who took the time to let us know what you think! The Parks & Recreation Department sent out almost 3,000 surveys to find out what additional recreation facilities the Los Altos Hills Community would like. We already have the Little League fields, Westwind Community Barn, and the Town riding ring, but wanted to see if there was additional demand for other types of public recreation areas.

52% of the respondents had Community Park in their top three choices, 38% wanted soccer/ multi-purpose sport field, and 34% were interested in an aquatic facility. See the chart below for more details.

The response was terrific, and many of you took the time to write comments and suggestions, all of which have been noted and passed to the Council for consideration.

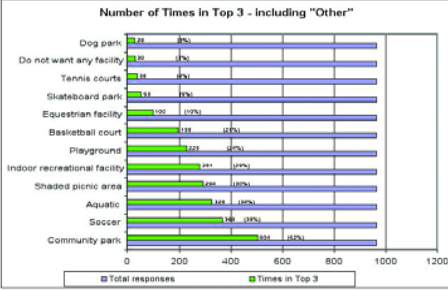
The Council has set up an Ad Hoc Committee to review the detail of the surveys and explore the possibilities of how additional recreation areas could be achieved. Members of the Committee are Co-Chair of the Parks & Recreation Committee Steve Johnson, and member Scott Vanderlip and two council members.

The Ad Hoc Committee, chaired by Steve Johnson, made its first report to the City Council in April, presenting the following goals:

1. Restore and repair existing facilities including Westwind Barn and the Little League Fields.
2. Acquire land to create a potential park, picnic area and multi-purpose playing field.
3. Use partnerships where possible to give LAH residents greater access to existing facilities such as existing local swimming pools and parks.

Public hearings at future City Council meetings will be conducted prior to expenditure of public funds or acquisition of land.

NEW RECREATION FACILITY COMMUNITY SURVEY



Total responses: 965

## THE TOWN NEWSLETTER

### CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

**Town owned property up for sale.** The Town is preparing to sell a 1.8 acre vacant property on Story Hill Lane (APN 182-52-009) at the west side of the Page Mill Road Intersection. The property is zoned for single-family residential use and allows for a maximum 5,000 square foot house and 7,500 square feet of development area. The property is within the boundaries of the Palo Alto School District and is served by the Town sanitary sewer system. The proceeds from the sale of this property will be used by the City Council to invest in one or more new recreational facilities. If you have any questions about the sale of this property please contact the City Manager's Office at 650-941-7222 x224.



City Manager Carl Cahill

### Spotlight on Town Volunteers: The Emergency Communications Committee (ECC)

Disasters such as wildfires, storm, earthquake and major accidents can place severe demands on public safety manpower and bring down conventional communication systems including telephones, public safety radios, fax and Internet communications.

To facilitate emergency communications during times of disaster, the Town established the Emergency Communications Committee to become the Town's "eyes and ears" in such events. The ECC consists of 18 amateur radio (ham) operator/ members who are capable of establishing a Town wide emergency radio communications network. This "net" is largely invulnerable to the system overloading that will render cell phones useless in the event of a major disaster.

In the event of an emergency or disaster, Certain ECC members would report to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The EOC is located in the Heritage House at the Town Hall Center and is the Town's emergency communications hub. Radio equipment that is housed at the EOC enables the net controller to coordinate communications with multiple ham radio operators who are dispatched where needed in the field. Disaster information can then be relayed to the County Emergency Operations Center and the State Office of Emergency Services.

**Would you like to become a member of the Town's Emergency Communications Committee?** This volunteer service opportunity does require a valid amateur radio operator's license. The Town will gladly assist any Committee member candidate in obtaining the requisite amateur radio license. Portable amateur radio equipment is also supplied by the Town to active members of the ECC.

Please call Steve Garcia, Public Safety Officer, at (650) 941-7222 x242 for more information about the Town's Emergency Communications Committee.

— Carl Cahill, City Manager  
KG6MOD

### FIRE SAFETY

#### Defensible Space to Save Your Home

With summer fast approaching it is time to start thinking about fire safety in and around your home. The Los Altos Hills County Fire District recommends that you clear all grass, brush and trees limbs 30 feet from around your home. The Fire Department calls this "Defensible Space." The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection is now requiring 100 feet of "Defensible Space" in high fire hazard areas. Proper clearances around your home will dramatically increase the chance of your house surviving a wildfire. This defensible space also provides for firefighter safety when protecting homes during a wildland fire.



Homeowner's responsibility is the key to fire safety whether it is outside the Home, or inside the Home. Here are some tips to help make homes fire safe:

- Post visible address numbers out on the street in front of your home.
- Remove all flammable vegetation 30 feet from all structures.
- In an additional 70 feet, create a reduced fuel zone by spacing trees and plants from each other.
- Clear all needles and leaves from roofs, eaves and rain gutters.
- Trim branches 6 feet from the ground.
- Remove branches 10 feet from all chimneys.
- Use trimming, mowing and power equipment before 10 a.m. and after 6 a.m., not in the heat of the day
- Landscape with fire resistance plants.

Proper clearance to 100 feet dramatically increases the chance of your house surviving a wildfire.

Outside, wildland fire safety begins with creating and maintaining clearance around your home; cut weeds and dry grass before 10 am when the humidity is higher and the temperature is cooler to reduce the chance of fire. Inside, basic fire safety begins with checking the battery in your smoke detector; practicing fire drills with your family; and keeping working fire extinguishers available. In California it is not a question of if a wildfire is going to occur, but more of a question of when. This is why it is so important California residents in the Wildland Urban Interface create a Defensible Space around their homes.

#### Best of Luck — Sarah Ragsdale



Administrative Services Director Sarah Ragsdale resigned from employment with the Town on May 25th. Sarah has accepted employment with the City of Ceres as their Administrative Services Director. Sarah chose to relocate to the Central Valley for family reasons. For nearly 6 years Sarah has faithfully prepared award winning balanced budgets for the Town. This essential task was in addition to her many other responsibilities that she successfully executed. We wish Sarah all peace and joy in her new home.

### WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS Los Altos Hills Residents in the Purissima Hills Water District

The Purissima Hills Water District serves approximately two-thirds of Los Altos Hills and receives 100% of its supply from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC). Northern California is experiencing its fourth driest winter on record and the Sierra snow pack (the District's water supply) is 46% of normal for the season. The SFPUC has issued a request for a voluntary 10% reduction in water use to preserve the limited supply. Since landscaping accounts for more than two-thirds of District usage, our focus is to help our customers reduce their irrigation usage.



Alexsis Shields, the District's part-time water conservation specialist, is very knowledgeable in assisting customers with identifying potential leaks, irrigation evaluations, and landscape plant selection, with a focus on California native and drought tolerant plants. The District is also in the process of installing Orion meter heads on all meters. Not only do these new devices enable the District to read meters electronically, but they also flag customer leaks which is an advantage because quite often homeowners will not even know they have a leak.

In addition to the services offered by the Purissima Hills Water District, our residents are also eligible for rebates offered by the Santa Clara Valley Water District. These include:

- Clothes Washer Rebate Program
- High Efficiency Toilet Rebate Program
- Water Wise House Call Program
- Low Flow Showerheads & Aerators
- Water Efficient Landscape Rebate Program
- Weather Based Irrigation Controller Program
- Irrigation Technical Assistance Program
- Irrigation System Hardware Rebate Program

For assistance or for more information, please contact Alexsis Shields, Water Conservation Specialist, at (650) 948-1217 or at ashields@purissimawater.org.

For Council Agenda and Minutes,  
See our Website:  
[www.losaltoshills.ca.gov](http://www.losaltoshills.ca.gov)

Volume XXXI No. 2

June 2007

### PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

**Phase One General Plan Update Approved**  
The City Council unanimously approved Phase One of the General Plan Update at their meeting on April 26, 2007.

#### What is a General Plan?

The General Plan provides a vision and framework for the physical development and character for the Town. It is also a policy document that provides the legal foundation for zoning, site development and subdivision ordinances. Section 65300 et seq. of the California Government Code requires each city and county to adopt a comprehensive, long-term General Plan that consists of seven mandatory elements. Individual cities and counties may adopt additional optional elements to reflect and accommodate local conditions. The State requires the Housing Element to be updated every five years and the remaining elements be updated every eight to ten years.

#### What is Covered in the General Plan Update?

The update is being done in two phases:

**Phase One** includes the Introduction, Conservation Element, and Open Space & Recreation Element. No new policy direction was proposed and the updated sections were unanimously approved by the City Council on April 26, 2007.

**Phase Two** (currently in progress) includes the following:

**Safety Element**-The Safety Element will address seismic, geologic, flood, and wildfire hazards. The chapter will also discuss disaster preparedness and response issues.

**Noise Element**-The Noise Element evaluates noise sources and provides policies and programs to limit the exposure of the community to excessive noise levels.

**Land Use Element**-The Land Use Element address the physical development of the town and provides policies on land uses, densities, and intensities.

The General Plan Committee has already begun working on the Phase Two Update. Although it is still in the early stages, we are anticipating its completion by the end of 2007/early 2008.

#### Your participation is important

Please visit the Town's website regularly to get the latest news on the General Plan Update and find out about upcoming meetings. To learn more about the Los Altos Hills General Plan Update process or if you have questions, please contact me at 650-941-7222 Ext. 224 or dpedro@losaltoshills.ca.gov

— Debbie Pedro, Planning Director



Debbie Pedro,  
Planning Director

### Photovoltaic Sun-Trackers for the Town Hall

In the last Town Newsletter, I mentioned that the Town Hall is expanding their solar installation and has established the goal of achieving a payback on the investment in less than 10 years. I am pleased to say that this goal appears to be achievable when Solar City, a top-notch solar installation company, was the winning bidder.

Details have been finalized and construction is scheduled to begin before May of this year. This photovoltaic tracker



system, that tracks the sun from sun-up to sun-down, will be the most efficient system available today and will serve as a direct comparison to the other two Town Hall photovoltaic system which are roof or ground mounted. Although the initial costs for a solar tracker system is higher, payback for the extra costs occurs in about two years. LAH residents will be able to compare all three systems to assist them in making a choice which of the three to use for their home solar installation.

Jay Shideler, Environmental Initiatives Committee

### Disaster Preparedness Classes

The Los Altos Hills County Fire District will be presenting **FREE** Disaster Preparedness classes to homeowners of the Los Altos Hills County Fire District. Attend the class and receive a **FREE** disaster preparedness kit. Below is a class schedule for the next 3 months.

#### Personal Emergency Preparedness

June 20th Wednesday, from 6:15-9:30 p.m.  
June 27th Wednesday, from 6:15-9:30 p.m.  
July 28th Saturday, from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

#### Senior + Personal Emergency Preparedness Classes (This class is designed for citizens 60 years and older)

June 19th & 21st, Tuesday and Thursday, from 4-6 p.m. both days  
June 30th, Saturday, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

To register for a class contact Mike Sanders, Emergency Services Coordinator @ 408-693-0007 or email @ [mike.sanders@cnt.sccgov.org](mailto:mike.sanders@cnt.sccgov.org).

Safety never takes a vacation, so be prepared.

### HOPPIN' HOUNDS EVENT

The Fourth Annual Hoppin' Hounds event raised over \$1000.00 to benefit Palo Alto Animal Services shelter and adoption pet programs. It was our most successful Hoppin' Hounds to date! The event is co-sponsored by the LAH Parks and Recreation Committee in partnership with 5 Paw Bakery of Los Altos.

Over 150 dogs and owners (the children loved looking for the biscuits too!) roamed Byrne Preserve looking for over 1500 "Easter-egg shaped dog biscuits" baked by 5 Paw Bakery in Los Altos.



Animal Control Officer Jeanette Washington from P.A.A.S was on-site to meet and greet everyone. The event was announced by Paul and Ruby Collary of 5 Paws Bakery (our co-sponsor) and staffed by LAH Parks and Recreation Co-Chair Val Metcalfe, committee members Karin Bergh and Rebecca Hickman and LAH Parks and Recreation Supervisor Eric Christensen.

### Town Newsletter - Statement of Purpose

This is the official Town Newsletter to communicate current issues, services, and activities in Los Altos Hills to the residents of the Town and to facilitate, encourage and improve interaction between the residents and Town government. The 2007 Newsletter will be published quarterly in the months of March, June, September, and December. Deadline for the next issue is July 31, 2007.

Internet Address: [www.losaltoshills.ca.gov](http://www.losaltoshills.ca.gov)  
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The Town Newsletter is published with assistance from our Town Volunteer Committees.  
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#### Los Altos Hills City Council

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